

From: Steve Meyer
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I am completely perplexed at the actions of AOL. It is so obvious that AOL (among others) is using the Justice Department/States Atty Generals' offices to act as its private outside counsel in its battle against Microsoft, that it's hard for me to believe that no one in the government can see what's occurring. This is pure economic politics on the part of the hold-out states and economic blackmail on the part of AOL; and as a taxpayer, I find it offensive that AOL has been using my tax dollars to boost earnings that it cannot get in the marketplace via old-fashioned competition.

If the hold-out states are truly interested in stamping out anti-competitive practices, they need to look no further than their AOL bedfellow. Weren't they the ones who promised open access if they were allowed to acquire Time-Warner? Didn't they promise to allow other instant messaging vendors access to their IM system so we all could benefit? They can't have it both ways. You can't claim Microsoft is anti-competitive in one market while AOL is doing the same thing in another market.

For the record, I don't own Microsoft stock (nor have I ever), but I do use their products daily which is why I, and thousands like me, have jobs today.

Pull the back the covers and stop the charade.

Steve Meyer

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